



RECEIVED
MAR 23 2004

EDMC

Tri-Party Agreement

**CONCLUSION AGREEMENT ON NEGOTIATION UNDER MILESTONE M-45
(COMPLETE CLOSURE OF ALL SINGLE SHELL TANK FARMS)**

February 26, 2004

The State of Washington Department of Ecology, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Department of Energy (the parties) have concluded negotiations on commitments regarding Single-Shell Tank Waste Management Area (WMA) waste retrieval and closure pursuant to Agreement M-45-00C. A tentative agreement has been reached and a package of changes to the Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (Agreement) has been developed and found mutually acceptable to the parties. These changes are attached to this Negotiation Conclusion Agreement.

It is the parties' intent to submit the Tentative Agreement for a 45-day public comment period to run from approximately March 31, 2004 to May 14, 2004. Following the public comment period, the parties will jointly prepare responses to public comments that have been received. Final approval by the parties is subject to public comment and appropriate change request modifications, if necessary. The parties further agree that to minimize additional delay, and if the parties are not able to resolve all issues with regard to comments, any unresolved matters shall be referred back for dispute resolution under the Tri-Party Agreement, Article VIII. However, any dispute resulting from these negotiations shall be initiated at the Inter-Agency Management Team level as described in the Tri-Party Agreement.

The parties are expected to approve changes to the Agreement by June 15, 2004.

Delmar L. Noyes, Lead Negotiator
U.S. Department of Energy
Office of River Protection

Laura J. Cusack, Lead Negotiator
State of Washington
Department of Ecology

David Bartus, Lead Negotiator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 10

Moses N. Jarayssi, Lead Negotiator
CH2M Hill Hanford Group, Inc.